# Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement

**The Environmental Assessment Office has developed a draft agreement with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency that lays out how the organizations will cooperate on project assessments, and we want your feedback.**

## What is it?

The Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement (the agreement) is a consolidation and update of existing agreements between the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (to become the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada once the new Impact Assessment Act is in force), that have been in place as early as 2004. The draft agreement sets out the administrative processes required from both provincial and federal agencies to ensure an efficient and effective assessment is carried out when projects are subject to assessment by both jurisdictions, supporting “one-project, one-assessment.”

### Why is the agreement being updated?

Both B.C. and the federal government have passed new assessment legislation, and the assessment processes have changed. The new agreement updates the administrative processes required for each organization to work cooperatively with each other to achieve “one-project, one-assessment.”

### How does this change the authority and independence of B.C.’s Environmental Assessment Office?

It doesn’t. Under this agreement, the Province maintains its full independence and authority to make decisions on whether a project should receive a provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate. Even if the federal government gives the go-ahead on a project, it must receive provincial approval to proceed (if both jurisdictions apply).

### Does the agreement limit the ability to enter into agreements with Indigenous nations?

Nothing in the agreement is intended to limit the ability of either the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) or the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) to collaborate or enter into agreements or arrangements with Indigenous nations or peoples. Establishing a framework between the EAO and the CEAA will assist in our efforts to advance reconciliation and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### Does the agreement change the Environmental Assessment Office’s equivalency agreement with the National Energy Board?

Yes. The equivalency agreement between the National Energy Board (NEB) and the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), allowing the EAO to accept the NEB’s assessment of a proposed project (in lieu of conducting a provincial environmental assessment), will no longer apply. The forthcoming Impact Assessment Agency of Canada will be the single federal agency conducting impact assessments under the Impact Assessment Act. Equivalency is not a feature of the agreement or new B.C. Environmental Assessment Act.

### Why is the public being engaged?

We believe it’s important to consider as many facts and perspectives as possible when developing policies that affect British Columbians. That’s why - in the Environmental Assessment Office commitment to transparency - we’ve engaged the public throughout the environmental assessment revitalization process. Please read the Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement draft and provide your feedback.

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**One-Project, One-Assessment** is the principle that when a project requires an assessment from both the province and the federal government, a cooperative process will be conducted that meets the needs of both organizations, resulting in a much more efficient and effective assessment. Provincial and federal ministers still make separate and independent decisions.

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**Check out the Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement**

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**Click here to provide your feedback**

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If you don’t have easy access to the Internet, you may also mail or fax your feedback:

**Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement Feedback**  
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